FBI probed Marina Oswald's sex life

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI investigated a reported sexual encounter between the widow of Lee Harvey Oswald and her business manager that the bureau felt damaged the credibility of her testimony to the Warren Commission.

Marina Oswald, widow of the man the commission determined was the lone assassin of President John F. Kennedy, testified in Washington Feb. 3-6, 1964.

The 58,700 pages of FBI files the bureau made public Wednesday included a critique of her testimony prepared by W.A. Branigan for his boss, William C. Sullivan, who then was assistant to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

The bureau had determined that some of her testimony was "critical of the FBI." But after the investigation, Branigan concluded the commission was less likely to believe her.

Her testimony to the commission included statements that "sometimes the FBI agents asked me questions which had no bearing or relationship.... They told me that if I wanted to live in this country, I would have to help in this matter, even though they were often irrelevant. That is the FBI."

An earlier memo from Branigan to Sullivan indicated that a Secret Service agent had warned Mrs. Oswald, who was born in the Soviet Union, that "if she got messed up in a divorce suit, she might find herself in trouble with immigration authorities."

"While the commission initially may have had some concern regarding Marina's remarks, the commission members' eyes were quickly opened concerning Marina ... when she engaged in sexual intimacies with her then business manager, James Martin," the Branigan memorandum dated Nov. 25, 1964, said. Martin was married.

Several dozen documents, released by the FBI under a Freedom of Information Act request, related to the FBI's 1964 inquiry into Mrs. Oswald's relationship with Martin.

Contacted on yesterday at her suburban Dallas home, she would not comment on any sexual relationship with Martin. "What does that have to do with anything?" she said.

Mrs. Oswald and her two children lived with Martin and his wife in Dallas from shortly after the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination until the following February. He served as her business manager until she asked that their contract be terminated on Feb. 14.

Much of the FBI material — which included statements from Mrs. Oswald's friends and relatives that she admitted having intercourse with Martin while in Washington to testify — was passed to J. Lee Rankin, general counsel for the commission.

The commission, however, initially feared that Mrs. Oswald had been raped.

"In the judgment of the commission," Rankin wrote Hoover in a letter stamped Feb. 18, "it is important to ascertain: 1. Whether the intercourse between Martin and Marina Oswald occurred at a time when she was under the protective surveillance of the Secret Service; 2. Whether she was, in fact, forcibly subjected to intercourse against her will...."

The newly released files indicate that the FBI investigated extensively in 1964. The files included memos detailing how Secret Service agents trailed the two to a Dallas restaurant, where "They enjoyed a good dinner (and) Martin professed h love to her."

The bureau also took a stateme from Oswald's sister-in-law, Va Oswald, who said Marina Oswa had told her she "had consented sexual relations and had same w Jim Martin" in Washington aft the Secret Service, at Marina wald's request, withdrew its surve lance.

The bureau also noted that an formant — identified by a co name — "had gained the impress from the way Mrs. Oswald looked her business manager, Martin, t she was 'sweet' on him."

On March 9, the FBI's Dallas fice teletyped to Washington th "Marina said she saw Martin in dreams last night and asked friend) to check on medication help control sexual desire."

It is not known how much of material from the investigation given to the Warren Commission.